

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A tennis ball having high visibility comprising:
 - a) a rubber sphere having an outer surface; and,
 - b) a fabric material glued to the outer surface of the rubber sphere, said fabric material being a felt made from a mixture comprising 40% or more of wool fibers and also comprising synthetic fibers, the fabric material having been dyed a fluorescent yellow color by a dyeing method comprising the step of contacting said felt with a reduction bleaching agent prior to, or simultaneously, or quazi-simultaneously, with a fluorescent yellow dye such that the felt exhibits the following characteristics:
 - i) a chroma value of 110 or more,
 - ii) a lightness value of 95 or more, and
 - iii) a reflectance value of 125 or more.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Previously Presented) The tennis ball as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said fluorescent yellow dye has a colour index number acid yellow 250.
- 4-5. (Cancelled)
6. (Previously Presented) The tennis ball as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said synthetic fibers are polyamide fibers,
7. (Previously Presented) The tennis ball as claimed in Claim 6, wherein said polyamide fibers are Nylon 6,6 fibers.

8-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The tennis ball as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said fabric material is processed in piece form in the dyeing method.

15. (Previously Presented) The tennis ball as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said fabric material is contacted with a partitioning agent in the dyeing method.

16. (Previously Presented) The tennis ball as claimed in Claim 15, wherein said partitioning agent is an alkylarylsulphonate in water and comprises 50-60% by weight of the salt of dodecylbenzenesulphonic acid and triethanolamine.

17. (Previously Presented) The tennis ball as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said dyeing method is conducted in a jet-dyeing apparatus.

18. (Previously Presented) The tennis ball as claimed in Claim 17, wherein a liquor ratio of from 6:1 to 8:1 is used to run said jet-dyeing apparatus.

19. (Previously Presented) The tennis ball as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the liquor has a pH of from 4.2 to 4.5.

20. (Previously Presented) The tennis ball as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said dyeing method comprises contacting said material with the bleaching agent prior to said material being contacted with said fluorescent dyestuff.

21. (Previously Presented) The tennis ball as claimed in Claim 15, wherein said dyeing method comprises contacting said material with the partitioning agent prior to said material being contacted with said fluorescent dyestuff.

22. (Previously Presented) The tennis ball as claimed in Claim 15, wherein said bleaching agent is added simultaneously or quasi-simultaneously with the partitioning agent in the dyeing method.

23. (Previously Presented) The tennis ball as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said bleaching agent is an inorganic reducing agent with chelating agents and comprises 30-40% by weight tetrasodium ethylene diaminetetraacetate and 30-40% by weight disodium disulphite.

24-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Presented) The tennis ball as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said dyeing method produces a lightness value of 96 or more.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Presented) The tennis ball as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the dyeing process produces a fabric material which exhibits the following characteristics:

- i) a chroma value of 110 or more;
- ii) a lightness value of 97 or more; and
- iii) a reflectance value of 128 or more.

32-51. (Cancelled)

52. (Currently Amended) The tennis ball as claimed in Claim-~~50~~ 6 , wherein the step of contacting said felt with said bleaching agent is carried out prior to contacting said felt with the fluorescent yellow dye.

53. (Currently Amended) The tennis ball as claimed in Claim-~~50~~ 6 , wherein the step of contacting said felt with said bleaching agent is carried out simultaneously or quasi-simultaneously with contacting said felt with the fluorescent yellow dye.

54. (Cancelled)

55. (Previously Presented) The tennis ball as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the bleaching agent is a nonionic hydroxylamine derivative.

56. (Previously Presented) The tennis ball as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the bleaching agent is an ionic mixture of sodium metabisulfate with the sodium salt of ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid.

57. (Cancelled)